

# And God Came Down

## And They Called Him Jesus

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"Otherwise Indicated" will carry the version reference:

IEB – International English Version (Morris)  
ASV – American Standard Version  
NIV – New International Version  
ALT – Alternative Rendering from the Greek  
CJB – Complete Jewish Bible

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Daniel John  
and published under the name  
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### **Translating Greek to English Goal**

We should translate all New Testament Koine Greek texts so that the translated English text meaning is as clear in the mind of the English reader/listener as the Greek text meaning was to the Greek reader/listener in the first century.

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## PREFACE

### The Life of Christ as Set Forth in the Four Gospel Accounts

1. In our teaching, we have always "stitched" together the four gospel accounts to show the harmony. It seems fitting to see the accounts married together to reduce the duplication and set forth in a single chronological narrative the perspectives of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
2. This merger of the texts is NOT intended to replace, minimize, or in any way detract from the unique perspectives of the individual writers, but rather to supplement the study of the life of Christ with a unified presentation.
3. Many people are unfamiliar with the reading of the Bible in that they do not come to this single narrative harmony with a context of four accounts of Christ's life all neatly set forth by chapter and verse. A single narrative of the merged individual perspectives of the gospel writers' **Holy Spirit-inspired works** would be helpful in communicating the complete story to those who are unfamiliar. Further, it provides a refreshed and harmonious look at all four accounts for the experienced reader.
4. Given that there is only one author of the four gospel accounts—the one Holy Spirit speaking through four individual writers—it seems that a merger of the four accounts, **with only the duplications omitted**, would not in any way offend the completeness and purity of the gospel message.

Dwight L. Pierce, J.D.

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Daniel John  
and published under the name  
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## INTRODUCTION

It is important that every person hears about the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Few disagree that this story is found within the four gospel accounts that open the New Testament of the Christian Bible, namely *Matthew*, *Mark*, *Luke*, and *John*.

The New Testament Greek word *euangelion* (evangel) means "good news," which became "gospel" in Old English, meaning "god term" or "god-spell." This word is most commonly translated today as "good news."

Since at least the Latin *Vulgate Bible* of 405 CE, the canon of the Christian New Testament has opened with the four gospel accounts of *Matthew*, *Mark*, *Luke* and *John*, each of which records a version of the good news of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Each gospel account was written by a different man and intended for a different audience, from a different point of view. Further, each narrative has a slightly different emphasis, focus, and reason for being written.

While the four gospel accounts are generally united in their overall theme and storyline, they each also contain unique sayings and stories which, when taken together, provide a more complete, composite picture of the teachings and personality of Jesus Christ.

The four gospels include many instances where the same saying, teaching, or story is recorded in two or three of the accounts, while some sayings and events from the life of Jesus are mentioned within all four. In the many places where more than one gospel account describes the same event, those verses are thought of as "parallel" in that their content is the same or similar, occasionally even using identical wording.

Because so much material is shared among the four gospel accounts, particularly in *Matthew*, *Mark*, and *Luke*, they are also referred to as "synoptic," which is a Greek compound word that means "seeing together" or "seeing as one."

In the many places where the gospel stories closely parallel each other, nearly all of them contain differences in the wording and specific details that each account records.

This harmony allows both the experienced and the first-time reader of the four gospels to hear the story of Jesus in a fresh and illuminating manner. Its format prompts unique insights and relevant applications that might not otherwise have been realized. This phenomenon testifies to the fact that the gospel of Jesus Christ, Son of Man, Son of God, proclaims the "good news" to those in every generation who are willing to hear His words and follow Him.

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## Prologue

Mark 1:1 / Luke 1:1-4

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus *Christ*,<sup>1</sup> the Son of God.

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent *Theophilus*,<sup>2</sup> so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.

1. *Christ/Christos* (Greek), *Messiah/Māšīyah* (Hebrew), "Anointed one" (English).

2. Means "One who loves God" or "Lover of God."

## The Word of God

John 1:1-5, 9-14, 16-18

In the beginning was the *Word*,<sup>1</sup> and the Word was with *God*,<sup>2</sup> and **the Word was God**.<sup>3</sup> He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. *The Light shines in the darkness*,<sup>4</sup> and the darkness did not comprehend it.

*The true Light, which enlightens every man, was coming into the world*.<sup>5</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as accepted Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who trust in Him; who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. For although *the Law was given through Moses*, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. Of His fullness, we have all received, which is grace upon grace.

And **the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us**. We saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

No one has seen God at any time, but the only begotten of God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained him.

1. Greek: *logos*; Jesus is the embodiment of reason, logic, and wisdom.

2. Greek: *Theos* (God or Deity); Jesus is one in substance and purpose with "God, the Father."

3. Greek: *Theos*; Jesus himself is deity, specifically "God, the Son." 4. Genesis 1:3 / Isaiah 9:2. 5. Isaiah 49:6.

## ***The Birth of John Foretold to Zacharias***

Luke 1:5–23

In the days of *Herod the Great*,<sup>1</sup> King of Judea, there was a priest of the division of *Abijah*<sup>2</sup> named Zacharias, who had a wife from the daughters of Aaron named Elizabeth. They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord; but they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years.

Now it happened that while Zacharias was performing his priestly service before God in the appointed order of his division, according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.

While the whole multitude of people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. Zacharias was troubled when he saw the angel, and fear gripped him.

But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son; and you will give him the name John.

"You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. *He will drink no wine or liquor*,<sup>3</sup> and *he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb*;<sup>4</sup> and He will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God.

"It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him *in the spirit and power of Elijah*, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children,<sup>5</sup> and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Zacharias said to the angel, "How will I know this for certain? *For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.*"<sup>6</sup>

The angel answered and said to him, "*I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news.*"<sup>7</sup> And behold, *you shall be silent and unable to speak*<sup>8</sup> until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled looking to their proper time."

The people were waiting for Zacharias, and were wondering at his delay in the temple. When he came out, he was unable to speak to them; and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple, because he kept making signs to them, and remained mute.

When the days of his priestly service were ended, he went back home.

1. Herod I (73—4 BCE) King of Judea & Galilee. 2. 1 Chronicles 24:1–10, 19. 3. Numbers 6:3.  
4. Jeremiah 1:5. 5. Malachi 4:5–6. 6. Genesis 17:17. 7. Daniel 8:16; 9:21–22. 8. Ezekiel 3:26; 24:27.

## ***Elizabeth Becomes Pregnant with John***

Luke 1:24–25

After these days Zacharias' wife Elizabeth became pregnant, and she kept herself in seclusion for five months, saying, "This is the way the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He looked with favor upon me, *to take away my disgrace from among men.*"<sup>1</sup>

1. Genesis 30:23.

## ***Gabriel Tells Mary That She Will Give Birth to a Son***

Luke 1:26–38

Now in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin who was the betrothed wife of a man of the house of David whose name was Joseph; and the virgin's name was Mary.

Coming in, Gabriel said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But Mary was very perplexed at this statement, and pondered what kind of salutation this was.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, *you will conceive in your womb and bear a son; and you shall name Him Jesus.*"<sup>1</sup>

"He will be great; and will be called the Son of the Most High! And the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."<sup>2</sup>

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered and said to her, "**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the Holy Child shall be called the Son of God.**

"And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age, and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month; **for nothing will be impossible with God.**"<sup>3</sup>

Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word!"

And Gabriel departed from her.

1. Isaiah 7:14. 2. 2 Samuel 7:12–17. 3. Genesis 18:14 / Jeremiah 32:17.

The Genealogy of Jesus **Mary Visits Elizabeth** According to the Flesh

Luke 1:39–56

Then Mary arose, and went in a hurry to a city in the hill country of Judea, and entered the house of Zacharias, and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! How has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord, would come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.

"Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord."

Mary said: "*My soul exalts the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,<sup>1</sup> for He has had regard for the humble state of His bondslave.<sup>2</sup>*

"And behold, from this time on, all generations will count me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me; and Holy is His name!

"*His mercy is upon generation after generation, toward those who fear Him.<sup>3</sup> He has done mighty deeds with His arm;<sup>4</sup> He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart. He has brought down rulers from their thrones, and has exalted those who were humble. He has filled the hungry with good things; and sent away the rich empty-handed. He has given help to Israel His servant,<sup>5</sup> in remembrance of His mercy,<sup>6</sup> as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his seed unto eternity."*

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months, and then she returned to her home.

1. Psalm 35:9 / Habakkuk 3:18. 2. Psalm 138:6. 3. Exodus 20:6 / Psalm 103:17.

4. Psalm 98:1 / Isaiah 40:10. 5. Isaiah 41:8. 6. Psalm 98:3.